

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, UK, HU
SUBJECT: RICHDALE ENGINEERING CO. LTD., UPDOWNHILL,
WINDLESHAM, SURREY GU20 6DX, U.K.: OEA/CD INVESTIGATIVE
CASE 9(77)-6

REF: STATE 22663

1. EDO INFORMED BELL JAN. 31 OEA UNABLE RECONSIDER
CASE UNTIL MUCH MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION PROVIDED.
BELL CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THAT HIS (UNIDENTIFIED)
PRINCIPALS CANNOT INVEST IN ELABORATE PLANT FACILITIES
UNTIL PROVISION OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT IS CERTAIN,
ALTHOUGH IN ANOTHER CONNECTION HE SAID EQUIPMENT NEEDED
DOUBTLESS IS AVAILABLE FROM NON-US SOURCES AND THAT
HIS PRINCIPALS ALREADY HAD LOOKED AT EQUIPMENT IN
VIENNA. USG REQUIREMENT FOR MORE DETAILS OF TRANSACTION
AND BACKGROUND TO NEW MANUFACTURING FACILITY WAS
UNDERSTANDABLE HOWEVER, HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WOULD
RAISE NEED TO BE MORE OPEN WITH HIS PRINCIPALS. (DES-
PITE BRITISH-SOUNDING NAME, BELL'S ACCENT SUGGESTS
GERMAN, DUTCH OR AFRIKANS BACKGROUND; RICHDALE LETTER
AND COMPLETED COMMERCIAL QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED IN OCT.
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1977 SHOW WEST GERMAN FRANZ DOEPKE AS RICHDALE PART-
OWNER AND DIRECTOR.)

2. AVELEY ELECTRIC (SIC) EXECUTIVE SAYS MIKE LAMBERT
WILLIAMS HAS NOT BEEN WITH THEM, BUT INSTEAD IS ASSOCIA-
TED WITH SPECTRONICS LIMITED OF UK. NO MENTION OF CON-
NECTION WITH RICHDALE. AVELEY (WHICH MOVED TO CHESSIN-

TON, SURREY, 2-3 YEARS AGO) IS RESPECTED UK ARM OF ROHDE & SCHWARZ, MUNICH, AND REPRESENTS FOLLOWING US FIRMS: ASTROSYSTEMS INC., NARDA MICROWAVE CORP., ELDORADO INSTRUMENT CO., PACIFIC MEASUREMENTS, HUDSON TOOL & DIE CO., HENLY-ELCOR CP., WILTRON CO., AND RYT INDUSTRIES. LAST COMMUNICATION FROM AVELEY (1975) WAS ON LETTERHEAD INDICATING FIRM WAS REGISTERED IN DEFENSE MINISTRY CONTRACT LIST. PARENT COMPANY INDICATED AS RUSINT A.G., ZUG SWITZERLAND.

3. ON BASIS AVELEY TIP DESCRIBED ABOVE, EMBOFF WONDERED OUT LOUD IN TALK WITH BELL WHETHER KASPER PURCHASE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH SPECTRONICS' RECENT FINANCIAL INJECTION BY ABU DHABI BUSINESSMAN SALEH FARID WHOSE 76 PER CENT ACQUISITION OF SMALL UK ELECTRONICS COMPANY DEVELOPING "PRINTERCOM" PORTABLE TELEX HAS BEEN WIDELY CITED AS EXAMPLE OF UK GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY FAILURE TO FINANCIALLY BACK PROMISING NEW TECHNOLOGY. FARID HAS SAID HE WILL MAKE SPECTRONICS INTO FIRM SIZE OF SIEMENS OR PHILIPS WITHIN TEN YEARS, AND THAT HE EXPECTS TO PUT MILLIONS OF POUNDS INTO THIS FIRM, AS MINI-TELEX SOLVES MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM OF DESK-TO-DESK COMMUNICATION AND COMPENSATES FOR POOR TELEX FACILITIES IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. BELL DID NOT CONFIRM OR DENY SUCH CONNECTION.

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4. INTERESTING NOTE THAT NORMAN L. GEPPERT, DIRECTOR OF ASSOCIATED TAPE LTD., (CASE NO. 289082), RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS ASSOCIATED (AND PERHAPS RELATED BY MARRIAGE) WITH WISE ESTATES OF LONDON, PRINCIPAL INVESTORS IN SPECTRONICS BEFORE FARID'S INTERVENTION. GEPPERT, WHO SAYS HE IS EX-US MARINE, GAVE EMBASSY ACCOUNT OF FARID TAKE-OVER OF SPECTRONICS IN ADVANCE OF RESULTANT PRESS REPORTS, AND DESCRIBED MINI-TELEX (ON WHICH HE LABORED FOR SOME MONTHS IN PROMOTIONAL ROLE) AS HAVING REAL COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL.

5. WITHOUT KNOWING MORE ABOUT WILLIAMS' CONNECTION OR TUNGSRAM DEAL, AND IN VIEW OF RECENT UK HOSTILITY TO CERTAIN FOREIGN INVESTMENT (E.G., JAPANESE ELECTRONIC FIRMS) AND PUBLIC ANTIPATHY TO ARAB INVESTMENT IN GENERAL, INTERESTING TO SPECULATE AS TO WHOM BELL'S PRINCIPALS MIGHT BE.

BREWSTER

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